

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W

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R 210300Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2499

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MORG, PINS, MU

SUBJECT: DHOFAR STILL QUIET

REF: MUSCAT 0923 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THE DHOFAR WAR, DECLARED "OVER" IN DECEMBER 1975, IS STILL IN THAT HAPPY CONDITION ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION FROM SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (AS OF)THIS

WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

2. ROUTINE BRIEFING RECEIVED BY AMBASSADOR AND DCM AT SAF HEADQUARTERS SEPT. 18 INDICATED THAT DHOFAR IS EMERGING FROM FIRST MONSOON SEASON SINCE ANNOUNCED END OF WAR LAST DECEMBER WITH NO EVIDENCE OF RENEWED PFLO/PDRY PENETRATION OR ATTEMPTS TO RESUPPLY REMAINING HANDFUL OF DISSIDENTS. THE SMALL PFLO AND PDRY CONCENTRATIONS IN DENSE TERRAIN
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BETWEEN SARFAIT AND THE BORDER (MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTTEL)

ARE STILL THERE BUT HAVE CREATED NO PROBLEMS, NOR HAS THERE BEEN FIRING OR SHELLING FROM ACROSS BORDER SINCE APRIL. BRIEFERS USED FIGURE OF 60 TO DEFINE NUMBER OF DHOFARI GUERRILLAS STILL HOLDING OUT, BUT RETAINING VERY LOW PROFILE, IN GENERAL VICINITY OF TAWI ATAIR IN EASTERN SECTOR.

3. SAF FIGURES ON DEFECTORS SHOW TOTAL OF 525 SO FAR IN 1976, WHICH IS OVER A QUARTER OF TOTAL OF 1945 SHOWN IN SAF RECORDS SINCE DHOFAR INSURRECTION BEGAN IN MID-SIXTIES.

4. BRIEFERS INDICATED SIZE OF IRANIAN FORCES ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED IN RECENT MONTHS. THOUGH MANY ARE IN BARRACKS AND TRAINING POSTURE AT MANSTON, OTHER IRANIAN TROOPS CONTINUE TO GUARD SIZABLE SECTOR OF WESTERN JABAL EXTENDING SOUTH AND WEST FROM MANSTON (IN ADDITION TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS LONG POSTED AT MIDWAY, SALALAH, SARFAIT AND HABARUT). WE WERE TOLD IRANIANS HAVE REPORTED THAT NOT A SINGLE ENEMY INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED IN THEIR SECTOR SINCE JANUARY 1976, THOUGH THEY STILL TAKE SOME CASUALTIES FROM OLD MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS AS DO REGULAR SAF FORCES.

5. NORTHERN OMAN, INCLUDING MUSANDAM, DESCRIBED BY SAF AS COMPLETELY SECURE. NO EVIDENCE YET DETECTED THAT PFLO HAS MOVED ANEW SINCE DECEMBER TO INFECT THESE AREAS WITH SUBVERSION OR URBAN TERRORISM. THEY NOTED THAT SAF CONTINUES MAINTAIN TWO SQUADRONS, OR "REINFORCED COMPANIES", IN MUSANDAM ITSELF. ALSO SAID THAT ROYAL OMAN POLICE, WITH ITS EXPANDED AIR-WING, IS RAPIDLY INCREASING ITS PRACTICAL DAY-TO-DAY SUPERVISION OVER INLAND AREAS OF NORTHERN OMAN, THOUGH SAF OF COURSE STILL ORGANIZED TO CARE FOR SECURITY CONTROL OF THIS REGION AND HAS NECESSARY CONTINGENCY PLANS IN CASE OF SOME EMERGENCY. (IN THIS REGARD, WE HEARD RECENTLY FROM POLICE SOURCE THAT AIQOLICE CAMEL CORPS IS BEING FORMED TO ACTIVATE ROVING DESERT PATROLS ALONG PORTIONS OF UAE AND SAUDI FRONTIERS. ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT OWNERS OF SUITABLE DOMESTIC CAMELS ARE DEMANDING ABOUT SEVENTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS PER BEAST, SO POLICE INSTEAD MAY IMPORT SOME FOR THER PURPOSE.)
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